THE GOOD SAMARITAN

EDNA EARLE COLE

SAMARITAN:—"I WILL PAY YOU FOR IT, SIR."

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

And Other Bible Stories Dramatized

ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAROLD WAGNER

EDNA EARLE COLE

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PREFACE

A child cannot love Christ until he knows Him. There is no knowledge without an introduction. To introduce the child to his loving Heavenly Father is the great aim of the Elementary Sunday School teacher. But some of the introductions have been given to unhearing ears, and the ear is the gateway to the child's soul upon which we have largely depended. The lesson given by a would-be teacher has often "gone in one ear and out the other" without reaching the heart or even the brain of the little disciple-to-be.

Graded lessons are helping to solve the problem and are suggesting that there are other gateways to the child's soul. God has given five senses, all of which are hungry and must be fed. The constant use of one only is most unnatural and well nigh impossible in contemplation of our mighty task. "To sit as a passive bucket and be pumped into," said Carlyle, "is exhilarating to no creature."

The eyes and hands must be used, and so handwork, objects, the use of the blackboard, curios and plasticine lend their valuable assistance.

But there are times when the whole body craves exercise. The pent-up God-given energy of the growing child needs an outlet. Action is absolutely necessary to development and to repress it is opposing God's law. We must guide, not repress, that energy.

How delighted, then, was my little primary class one morning when I said, "Let's *play* the lesson." There were a number of characters in the lesson that morning—King Ahasuerus, Mordecai, Esther, Haman and Hatach (Lesson 51, Third Year Primary). No wonder as I told the story they had been confused, and their eyes and minds wandered. "Now," I said, "who shall be Queen?" And sweet little Daisy Taylor was chosen. "And who shall be King?" There was a moment of hesitation while two boys sat a little straighter, glanced about significantly and waited. Sometimes Raymond Howell was considered the leader of the class and sometimes James Boswell, so great was the cour-

age of each in daring to display his energy. But was not James the greater of the two this morning? Had he not turned the most wonderful of somersaults during the march? So he was chosen. He at once acquired an unusual amount of dignity and was all attention. The willingness with which Raymond accepted the character of Haman was evidence that he had heard nothing at all of the story. Mordecai and Hatach were decided upon, and of the remaining three one was the King's attendant and the others were sorrowing Jews. As the story was repeated they acted it out in pantomime. Not much moving about was possible, and only the quiet gestures, for we were in a room with many other classes. As the pianist gave the chord for attention to the closing exercises, the little King made a most humble request. Did we not have a half hour between Sunday School and Church service? Couldn't we go out on the lawn at the side of the church and play the lesson again? And play it again we did! They will long remember the courage of the brave young Queen who chose the right.

This experience with the younger children

and others of a like nature with Juniors have led to the arrangement of Old and New Testament stories in two forms:

(*a*) For younger children (Primary and Beginners) expression must be more nearly of a spontaneous nature, elicited at the time of the story telling. The work for these, therefore, is in the form of a story to be told by the teacher, with the action suggested in parentheses. (These may be used exactly as written, or the story read as a whole and the action in pantomime by the children at the close).

(*b*) For the older children the more formal arrangement is possible. So the stories for them (Juniors and Intermediates) have been put in the recognized dramatic form.

The effort to represent some environments may seem almost ludicrous to the adult, but let us remember and duly appreciate the child's imagination. The world of "make believe" is a very real world to him and it is his delight to walk therein.

It must be remembered that the stories in this form are not meant simply to entertain. Far be it from our soul specialists to spend

any of their time with the children in merely amusing them. But we must reach their souls through their natural instincts and interests, and in proportion as we cause them, through their imaginations, to see and live the wonderful Bible stories, just so deeply will the impression be made which will lead out to a splendid expression in their daily lives.

So these stories in dramatic form are presented in the hope that they may be found useful in class, for opening and closing exercises, for special day programs, for department socials, in the home, and for many other occasions meet the need of the teacher and parents in their work of character building. And may they help create, deep down in the soul of every energetic play-loving child, a deeper interest in God's Word and a better understanding of His dealings with men.

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THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:30-37

CHARACTERS:

"A Certain Man."
Robbers (Three).
Priest.
Levite.
Samaritan.
Inn Keeper.

MATERIALS:

For "A Certain Man," package, purse, money.
For Priest, book.
For Samaritan, bottle of oil, cup for water, strip of muslin, handkerchief.
For Inn Keeper, scroll.
Chairs representing bed.
Chairs representing hiding place of robbers.

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*The Robbery and Passers-by.*
ACT II—*Hospital Scene.*

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

ACT I

The Robbery and Passers-by

(*Enter the three robbers.*)

First Robber—"Let us hide here at this turn in the road. When someone comes by, let us all jump on him at once. Take everything you can. I hope he will have a lot of money."

Second Robber—"I will fight him and throw him down so that he will not be able to follow us."

Third Robber—"Listen, here comes someone now!" (*All hide.*)

(*Enter the traveler carrying package, purse in pocket, loose pennies. Coat and hat on. As he enters he looks anxiously to right and left, and is about to hurry on, when the three robbers jump out at him, take purse, money, package, hat and coat and throw him*

over. He shows fight and tries to get away. As robbers leave he lies with arms thrown helplessly out at sides, and eyes closed, as if unconscious. Enter Priest at right and pauses to look at injured man.)

PRIEST—"Ah, foul play here! Someone has been robbed! This is a dangerous place. I had better hurry on or I also may be hurt and my work interrupted." (*Exit left.*)

(*Enter Levite from right. Pauses and looks at injured man.*)

LEVITE—"What is this? Poor unfortunate man! The robbers that do so much harm along this road should be caught and punished, but it is not my part to see that the laws are enforced. It is really not my affair unless my counsel is asked later. Someone else will have to look out for this man." (*Exit left.*)

(*Enter Samaritan from right dressed to appear destitute.*)

SAMARITAN—"Oh, those wicked robbers! See, this poor man has lost everything and is hurt!" (*Brushes back the wounded man's hair and feels his pulse.*) "He is a Jew and the Jews despise us Samaritans. He would

not even speak to me if he were conscious. But he is hurt. Perhaps he has father and mother at home who love him. I must help him if I can." (*Runs out of sight with cup and brings water. Holds man up and tries to give him drink, bathes his face, with strip of muslin binds up his arm and pours on oil.*) "There! Now I will take him to the inn down the road, where he can be put to bed, and bye-and-bye given some food." (*Exit left, carrying the wounded man.*)

ACT II

Hospital Scene

(Chairs placed together to represent bed. Enter Inn Keeper, who sits and reads a scroll. Enter Samaritan with wounded man.)

Inn Keeper—"What does this mean? A Samaritan carrying a wounded Jew! What have you done to him?"

Samaritan—"I do not wonder that you think I have harmed him. The Jews hate my race and you might expect us to hate them in return. But I have not hurt him, sir. I found him robbed and bleeding, up the road there, and see, I have bound up his arm and given him a drink and poured oil on his wounds. Have you room for him at the inn?"

Inn Keeper—"I have room, but he could not pay me for it, since his money has been stolen."

Samaritan—"I will pay you for it, sir."

(*The two lay the wounded man across the chairs. Samaritan hands some money to Inn Keeper.*)

SAMARITAN—"Please keep him here until he is quite well. I may never see him again, for he may have gone when I come this way. If this money has not been enough, I will pay you more when I see you."

INN KEEPER—"You are a good Samaritan, being kind to him whose name, even, you do not know, and doing unto him as you would have him do unto you. I will do the best I can for him. May God bless you on your way."

SAMARITAN—(*As he is leaving.*) "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind and THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF." (Luke 10:27.)

(*Exeunt all.*)

PAUL AND THE JAILER

Acts 16:12-40

CHARACTERS:

Paul.
Silas.
Timothy.
Luke.
Lydia.
Other Women of Philippi
Slave Girl.
Masters of Slave Girl.
Men of Philippi.
Magistrates (Two).
Jailer.
Prisoners.

MATERIALS:

Loose, flowing garments for both men and women.
Scarfs for women's head-covering.
Turbans for men.
Ropes or chains for Prisoners.
Sword for Jailer.

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*The River-side Prayer Meeting.*
ACT II—*The Slave Girl Liberated.*
ACT III—*The Prison Scene.*

PAUL AND THE JAILER

ACT I

The River-side Prayer Meeting

(*Lydia and several other women sitting in semi-circle. Enter Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke.*)

Paul—"May we join you in your prayer meeting? I am Paul, a Jew born in Tarsus—an apostle of Jesus Christ. These are my traveling companions:" (*Indicating each as he speaks his name.*) "Silas and Timothy and Luke, the physician. We are all evangelists, going from place to place and preaching of Jesus Christ."

Lydia—"I am Lydia, a seller of purple. We shall be very glad to have you speak to us."

Paul—"I shall be glad to do so. Let me tell you of the experience which led me to

accept Jesus as my Savior." (*All sit.*) "I was educated in Jerusalem with Gamaliel for my teacher. I was taught the law and was a believer in God, as are you. My love for the temple made me oppose those who seemed to be indifferent to our customs, so I persecuted the Christians. On my way to Damascus to bring those who were bound to Jerusalem a strange thing happened. As I neared the city at noon a bright light suddenly fell about me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say, 'Saul, why do you persecute me?' and I answered, 'Who are you?' The voice said, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth.' To think that Jesus was alive after all, just as his followers had said! When I arose I could not see, and my friends led me into the city. Then through one of His followers Jesus summoned me to His service. I have obeyed. All that Christ was, I am trying to become. Perhaps we can meet here from time to time, and I will tell you more things of interest."

WOMEN—"Do come, we are eager to hear you."

LYDIA—"If you count me worthy come

into my house and make it your home while you are in Philippi."

SILAS—"Brother Saul, let us accept her invitation."

LUKE—"Yes, it will be a good thing to do." (*Turning to Lydia.*) "It is very kind of you to ask us."

PAUL—"Very well, thank you, we will come, and gladly." (*Exeunt all.*)

ACT II

The Slave Girl Liberated

(*Men and women of Philippi standing about. Enter Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke. Enter Slave Girl, dancing along behind the men and tossing her arms about.*)

Slave Girl—"These men are servants of the Most High God, who tell you the way to be saved!" (*Pointing at the men she repeats above statement, then dancing about in front of them makes the statement a third time.*)

Paul—(*To companions.*) "It is an evil spirit that she has." (*Turning to Girl.*) "I command you to come out of her." (*The Girl becomes perfectly quiet and as she gazes at them her masters enter.*)

First Master—(*Taking her by the arm.*) "Come, and earn money for us!"

Slave Girl—"I can help you no longer." (*All look startled.*) "I am now in my right mind."

SECOND MASTER—"Who cast out her evil spirit?"

PAUL—"I did, sir, in the name of Jesus. Now let her depart in peace."

MASTERS—(*Laying hold of Paul and Silas.*) "You are making great trouble in this city. You shall go before the magistrates, who will place you in prison." (*Magistrates lead Paul and Silas away. Timothy and Luke follow. Exeunt all.*)

ACT III

The Prison Scene

(*Several prisoners lying about on floor. With them and in the foreground, Paul and Silas. The feet of all appear to be fastened with ropes or chains.*)

Paul and Silas—(*"Singing praises."*)

"All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

O that, with yonder sacred throng,
We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all."

(*At signal let all turn over suddenly and spring to their feet.*)

First Prisoner—"What is happening! I am free!"

Second Prisoner—"And I, too! I believe it was an earthquake!"

SILAS—(*Turning to Paul.*) "What do you think it means?"

PAUL—"The Lord is in this!" (*Enter on a run the frightened Jailer with sword pointed at his breast.*)

PAUL—"Do yourself no harm, Jailer; we have not escaped. We are all here."

JAILER—(*Falling on knees before Paul and Silas.*) "This is the most wonderful thing I ever saw! Your God, about whom you have been singing, is helping you. What must I do to be saved?"

PAUL—"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, and those in your house with you."

JAILER—"Come into my house near by, that I may be baptized. I do believe in your Jesus and want to learn more about Him. While we are there I will dress your wounds. You were cruelly beaten yesterday." (*Exeunt Jailer with Paul and Silas. Other prisoners lie down again. Presently the Jailer returns with Paul and Silas, who are bound with strips of muslin.*)

JAILER—"Good-night. I cannot bring myself to bind any of you since this wonder-

ful thing has happened. Peace be with you." (*Exit Jailer.*)

(*After a few moments morning is supposed to have arrived. One by one the prisoners waken, rise, greet each other and walk about.*)

JAILER—(*Enters joyfully and addresses Paul and Silas.*) "The rulers have sent word to let you go free. So you may come out of the prison and go on your way."

PAUL—"We are free citizens of Rome, and without a trial they have beaten us and cast us into this place. Now they want to turn us out secretly. No indeed, let the rulers come and bring us out!" (*Exit Jailer.*)

(*Enter Magistrates, frightened.*)

MAGISTRATES—"We did not know you were Roman citizens, and we ask forgiveness for having treated you so. We beg of you, leave this place at once!"

SILAS—"Come, Paul, let us not linger here. We will go back to Lydia's home."

PAUL—(*To Magistrates.*) "But mark you, mistreat us no more, or we will bring

complaint against you and your lives will be in danger." (*Exeunt Paul, Silas and Magistrates, others following.*)

A KING'S LIFE SPARED

I Samuel 24:1-22

CHARACTERS:

King Saul.
The King's Army.
David.
David's Army.
Village Folk (15 or more).
Commander of King's Army.

MATERIALS:

Something to represent King's robe.
Paper caps.
Sticks, for swords.
Knife.
Sheets to make cave effect.

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*Village Scene. Both armies passing through.*

ACT II—*In the Cave.*

A KING'S LIFE SPARED

PROLOGUE:

We remember the little shepherd boy David, who was anointed by Samuel; how he fought and killed the great Goliath and became a dear friend to Jonathan, the King's son. And because Jonathan and all the people loved David so much, King Saul became jealous and tried to kill him; how David found six hundred men who were his friends and wanted to stay close to and protect him; how he, with his small army, dodged here and there over the country, hunted by King Saul with his mighty army. Bye and bye it was told King Saul that David and his men were in the wilderness of En-gedi. Then Saul took three thousand men and went out again to seek David, to kill him.

The boys and girls will show what happened. One soldier here will repre-

sent a hundred in the real armies, so that six will accompany David and thirty will be with the King. (If not so many are available, omit the preceding sentence and make the armies proportionately correct, with fewer boys.)

ACT I

Village Scene

(*A number of village folk sitting and standing about.*)

One Villager (Girl)—"Have you heard of David recently? He is still hiding from the King, I suppose, and in constant danger."

Second Villager (Boy)—"Yes, so it is said. His army numbers only six hundred and the King is hunting him with an army five times as large. I pray that David may escape out of his hand."

Third Villager (Boy)—"I think everyone in this village loves David and would like to see him made King. He is so good and kind and brave."

Fourth Villager (Girl)—"I hear the tramp of feet now! O that it might be David himself, come to see us once again!"

Several Others—"Oh, it is! It is!"

(*All clap as David and his soldiers enter from right.*)

DAVID—(*Excitedly.*) "We can halt but a moment. King Saul's army is almost upon us and we must fly for our lives, so good-bye! Pray that we may come safely to you again. Forward, march!" (*Exeunt left. The villagers mourn and shake their heads.*)

VILLAGER—"O, may he some day be ruler in Israel!" (*Silence, then the sound of marching. Enter at right King Saul and army.*)

KING SAUL—(*Flourishing his sword.*) "Out of our way, all! We are here three thousand strong to find and kill David. He shall die!"

SOLDIERS—"Hear! Hear!"

COMMANDER OF ARMY—"Forward, men! March!" (*Exeunt left. As army leaves all the villagers rush forward, shading eyes with hands, looking after soldiers. Exeunt all right.*)

ACT II

In the Cave

(*The cave effect can be produced by sheets thrown over chairs which have been placed in a semi-circle and each chair tipped over so that the back is horizontal. David's men march in and before the cave entrance break ranks.*)

David—"This looks like a good place for shelter. Let us creep in here and stay a while. We have come a long way and need to rest." (*They crawl into the recesses of the cave. David is last in, looking in every direction before entering.*)

(*Enter King's army.*)

Commander—"Halt!"

King Saul—"I am weary and while you keep guard I shall go into this cave here, and rest a while." (*Lies down in entrance of cave and others sit in the foreground.*) "We shall surely find David soon now. He can-

not be far from this place, I judge, from the reports we have had. We will take his army captive and kill them all." (*Laughs.*) "What can they do against so many of us? Jonathan loves him better than he does me, and I hear praises of him on every side. Does he think he is greater than the KING? Well, we shall soon see!" (*Others lie down and all sleep. David comes to mouth of cave, looks at the sleeping King and hesitates.*)

DAVID—"May the Lord forbid that I should kill him." (*David cuts off a piece of the King's robe, and retreats. Presently the King sits up, rubs his eyes, stands and advances.*)

KING—"Well, I slept for sure. Come, men, we must be moving on." (*As all scramble to their feet, David appears at mouth of cave.*)

DAVID—"My Lord, the King!" (*Bows and holds up the piece of the King's robe.*) "My Lord and King, why do you listen to men who tell you that David is trying to do you harm? Just now you lay in the cave. I stood by you. My soldiers told me to kill

you. I could easily have done so—but would not. See the piece of cloth I cut from your robe. I cut it off to show you how close I was to you while you slept, but did not harm you." (*David's soldiers come out of cave and stand near. King Saul's soldiers surround him. King Saul drops his sword and stretches hands toward David.*)

KING SAUL—"Is it really you, my son David? You are a better man than I. You spare my life, while I have sought to kill you. Forgive me. Never again will I seek to kill you. I believe it is God's will that you shall some day be King."

COMMANDER KING'S ARMY—"Attention! Forward! March!" (*Exit King's army to right, with commander in charge. Exit David's army to left, strolling out in group.*)

ESTHER, THE BRAVE YOUNG QUEEN

Esther 2:5-7; 17:20-23; 3:8

CHARACTERS:

King Ahasuerus, of Persia.
Esther, the Queen.
Mordecai, a Jew.
Haman.
Hatach, Queen's servant.
Two soldiers.
Two servants of the King.

MATERIALS:

Screen, used to represent entrance to another room.
Box draped for throne.
Stick, for scepter.
Roll of paper to represent Proclamation.
Thin veil for Esther (if one wishes to teach custom of the time.)

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*In King's Palace.*
ACT II—*Before Palace Gate.*
ACT III—*Throne Room of Palace.*
ACT IV—*Queen's Quarters in the Palace.*

ESTHER, THE BRAVE YOUNG QUEEN

ACT I

In King's Palace

(*Screen midway on platform. Let the space to left of screen represent the throne room, the space to the right an adjoining room. The arrangement of screen makes it possible to have fewer scenes.* ALL ENTRANCES FROM THE RIGHT.)

(*King enters followed by two servants, and ascends the throne, the servants standing on either side. Queen enters and pauses in outer room.*)

HATACH—(*Enters with roll of paper and addresses the Queen.*) "Here is a message from the man called Mordecai, O Queen."

ESTHER—(*Reading.*) "Dear Esther:—Although a very humble man, I now have opportunity to do the King a great favor.

While I stood at the gate this morning I overheard two of the King's servants talking about him. They hate him, and are planning to kill him. Of course they do not know that I heard. Send a message to the King quickly that his life may be spared and these wicked servants arrested. Your cousin, Mordecai." (*Turning to Hatach.*) "Get this word to the King quickly. It is terrible!" (*Exit Queen. Two soldiers enter on way to the King and are stopped by Hatach.*)

HATACH—"Say to the King that there is a plot to kill him. Mordecai, the Jew, has learned of it and has sent the word. The enemies are two of the servants." (*Exit Hatach. Two soldiers enter the throne room and stand before the King.*)

SOLDIER—"Two of your servants are traitors and are planning to kill your Highness. So says a man called Mordecai, who has sent the word, that you may be saved."

KING—(*Coming down center.*) "Bring this man Mordecai into the palace and inquire of him who the servants are! Have them hanged for such a plot as that! Can I not trust even my own servants?" (*Exeunt*

both soldiers to adjoining room, one waiting there, the other passing off. Enter Mordecai with the soldier. He and the two soldiers talk in undertone a moment, then start away together. As they turn they meet Haman on his way to the King. The soldiers bow to Haman, but Mordecai does not.)

HAMAN—(*Stands looking after them, shaking his fist angrily at Mordecai. Aside.*) "I hate that Jew Mordecai! He will not bow to me. Am I not next to the King in power? I will make trouble for him if I can!" (*Enters the throne room and bows to King.*) "There is a people scattered abroad in the land whose laws are different from the King's. It is not best to allow such people to live. I suggest that they be destroyed."

KING—"Very well. Let us avoid all danger. I have just now learned of an attempt upon my life. I give these people to you—do with them as you please."

HAMAN—"I shall write a Proclamation in your name, that they must all be killed." (*Exeunt King and Haman.*)

ACT II

Before Palace Gate

(*Enter Mordecai and two servants.*)

Soldier—(*Enters reading Proclamation.*) "Upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month all Jews must die—so doth the King command."

Mordecai—(*Listens intently, then throwing hands over face wails and runs out, crying.*) "I will tell Esther, the Queen, and perhaps she can save us!"

ACT III

Throne Room of Palace

(*King on throne, guarded by soldiers.*)

Esther—(*Slowly approaching the throne room.*) "It is that wicked Haman who has planned this terrible thing. Of course he did it because Cousin Mordecai wouldn't bow to him. He doesn't know that I am a Jew, or that Mordecai is my cousin. Neither does the King. What will they say, I wonder, when they discover these things!" (*Taking another step or two and pausing.*) "If the King does not hold out the golden scepter to me, I shall be slain for daring to come to him unasked. But all the Jews are praying for me, so I will go in. If I die, I die!" (*Esther enters and stands before the throne.*)

King—(*Smiles and holds out the golden scepter. Esther touches the tip of it.*) "What do you wish, Queen Esther? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom."

ESTHER—"If it please the King, I wish you and Haman, the Prince, to come to a dinner which I have prepared for you."

KING—"Thank you, Queen Esther, I will send for him and we will come." (*Exit Queen, then King.*)

ESTHER:—"THIS IS THE MAN WHO HAS DARED! THIS WICKED HAMAN!"

ACT IV

Queen's Quarters in the Palace

Time—after the dinner

(*King, Queen and Haman present. Two servants near. Soldiers at door.*)

King—"Thank you, Queen Esther, for having invited us to the feast. And now, what do you wish? Tell me, and I will give it to you."

Esther—"If I have found favor in your sight, O King, and if it pleases you, let my life be given me and the lives of my people. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed!" (*Haman looks startled and half rises.*)

King—"What do you mean? Who has dared plan such a thing!"

Esther—"This is the man who has dared! This wicked Haman! I am a Jew, and he has asked that all the Jews be put to death!"

King—(*To Haman.*) "The Jews! You

did not tell me that you meant the Jews! Why did you plan this thing? Certainly not because of their laws as you pretended."

HAMAN—"Well, I will tell you all. There is a Jew called Mordecai who stands at the King's gate. Although I am such a great man, he refuses to bow to me. He has made me so angry that I have had a gallows made upon which to have him hanged. Because of him I planned that all of the Jews should be killed. But" (*Turning to Esther.*) "I did not know, O Queen, that they were your people."

ESTHER—"Not only are they my people, but Mordecai is my cousin, dearer to me than most cousins, for, my parents having died, he brought me up as his own daughter."

KING—(*Pacing up and down.*) "Mordecai! The name sounds strangely familiar. Is he not the one who saved my life recently?"

HAMAN—(*Kneeling before the Queen.*) "Save my life, O Queen Esther! These things were unknown to me!"

ESTHER—"But your sin is no less that I am Jewish. It was a wicked, wicked thing

to plan,—the slaying of a whole people, because of your foolish pride!"

KING—(*To soldier.*) "He shall die for this. Take him out and hang him on the gallows of which he tells us. And this Mordecai—he is the one who saved my life recently. Was he rewarded in any way? He shall be made Prince in Haman's place." (*Turning to Queen Esther.*) "Do not be sad any longer, Queen Esther, for the Jews shall not die, but shall have gladness and joy and honor! And Mordecai shall be a Prince, next in power to the King."

PETER AND THE ROMAN CAPTAIN.

Acts 10:1-9, 17-48

CHARACTERS:

Cornelius, a Roman Captain.
Two house-servants of Cornelius.
A Soldier who waited upon him.
Peter, a Jew.
Friends of Peter (Jews of Joppa).
Friends of Cornelius (Gentiles of Cæsarea).
A Beggar near the home of Cornelius.

MATERIALS:

Screen.
Flowing robes (kimonos will serve).
Girdle.
Turbans.

(If one wishes to represent and teach the customs of the times, the robes, girdle and turbans will help. See "The Private Life of the Romans," by Johnson, for details regarding the home and furnishings, attitude in prayer, etc.)

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*Home of Cornelius in Cæsarea.*
ACT II—*Peter in Joppa.*
ACT III—*Home of Cornelius. (The following day.)*

PETER AND THE ROMAN CAPTAIN

ACT I

Home of Cornelius in Caesarea

Cornelius—(*Walking slowly toward his home pauses to toss a coin to a beggar who is sitting in the background. Entering the house—passing the screen—lays off his turban and, standing, engages in silent prayer. Turning suddenly.*) "Joppa? Joppa? I have heard before that this man whom they call Simon Peter is there! That is thirty miles south. How strange that this has been put into my mind—that I must send for him. Had I better do it? I am a Gentile and the Jews have no use for us! Perhaps if I sent for him, he would not come. But I will do it!" (*Soldier enters.*) "As I prayed just now a wonderful thing happened. God spoke to me and said that I should send to Joppa

for one named Simon Peter, to come and preach to us. I am ashamed that I have hesitated. Will you go with two of my servants and bring him? Tell him of my prayer and that I feel that God wishes him to come."

SOLDIER—"That I will, and I trust that he agrees. If so, let us ask our friends in to hear him speak."

CORNELIUS—"Yes. And now call two servants to accompany you." (*The soldier leaves and returns with two servants.*)

CORNELIUS—"You are to go to Joppa to bring back a man called Simon Peter. He is at the home of a tanner whose name also is Simon. You will travel all night, following the road south by the Great Sea, and should reach there about noon tomorrow. Make haste and return with him as quickly as possible." (*They bow low and leave him.*)

ACT II

Peter in Joppa

Peter—(*Kneels in prayer—Peter's custom [Acts 9:40]—then sits, leaning against wall, and falls asleep. Soldier and two servants approach and knock at door [screen].*)

Soldier—"Peter! Simon Peter! Are you here?"

Peter—(*Aroused from dream and sitting up.*) "Well, it is strange I never thought of that before! We Jews have thought we were better than other people, but God has surely told me in my dream that we are no better than the Gentiles. He loves all people, everywhere. And perhaps I am the one who should teach the Gentiles regarding Christ." (*Again the servants knock at the door and the soldier calls.*)

Soldier—"Peter! Peter!"

Peter—(*Coming to door.*) "Behold I am Peter, whom you seek. For what cause are you come?"

SOLDIER—"Cornelius, the Centurion, of Cæsarea, who is a good man, was told by God to send for you. He wishes you to come to his home, that he might hear words of you."

PETER—"Come into the house. We will give you food and places to sleep. Then tomorrow I will journey with you to Cæsarea." (*They enter, remove turbans and sit, Oriental fashion, while Peter for a moment paces back and forth, lost in thought.*)

PETER—"But come now into the inner room and refresh yourselves from your long journey." (*Exeunt all at left.*)

ACT III

Home of Cornelius. The Following Day.

(*Scene—Peter and "certain brethren from Joppa," the soldier and two servants of Cornelius approaching the home of Cornelius. On the platform awaiting them, Cornelius and his company of "kinsmen and near friends." Cornelius arises, runs to the door and prostrates himself before Peter.*)

Peter—"Stand up, for I myself also am a man." (*They enter and see company which Cornelius has gathered, who also arise and prostrate themselves before Peter.*)

Peter—"Ye, also, stand up. I am but a man." (*They all, excepting Cornelius, are seated again.*)

Cornelius—"We are very glad you have come to us, Simon Peter. We are gathered together to hear you speak to us."

Peter—"Ye yourselves know that there

is a law that Jews shall not go to the houses of any other people. But God has shown me that Jews must not think they are better than the Gentiles. God loves us no better than you, and He has told me to come to you, so I am here. But tell me, Why was it that you sent for me?"

CORNELIUS—"Four days ago at this hour I was praying in my house here and God told me that He heard my prayer. And He put it into my thoughts to send to Joppa and find you, Simon Peter.

PETER—"Now I am more certain than ever that God loves you, and every man, woman, boy and girl belongs to Him. Since that is true, I want to tell you about Jesus. He is the Son of God, promised of old. He was born in Bethlehem and when He became a man He went about doing good. He was full of the Holy Spirit and of power. He healed the sick and raised the dead. I myself saw Him do these things. And HE WAS WITHOUT SIN! But the Scribes and Pharisees did not believe in Him. Bye and bye they crucified Him and nailed Him to a cross, as perhaps you have heard. But did you

hear also that in three days He arose and ascended into Heaven? I saw that, also. He is there with God, now. Everyone who repents of his sins and believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

CORNELIUS—"Oh, it is wonderful, Peter, and I do believe! But we want to know more. Will you not tarry with us for several days?"

PETER—"Yes, I will tarry with you for a few days, and my friends here also. After that we will go up to Jerusalem and tell the friends there of this wonderful thing which has happened. When they learn that God truly loves all people, I am sure that they too will want to go out and preach the gospel to other Gentiles."

TWO JOURNEYS TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:8-20 and Matt. 2:1-12

CHARACTERS:

Shepherds (Three).
Voice.
Mary.
Joseph.
Men of Bethlehem.
Women of Bethlehem.
Herod, the King.
Servant of King.
Priests (Two).
Scribes (Three).

MATERIALS:

Manger.
Flowing robes.
Staffs.
Crooks.
Turbans.
Scrolls.
Draped chair, to represent throne.
Packages, supposed to be the gold, frankincense and myrrh.

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*The Shepherds.*

Scene 1—Shepherds in Field.

Scene 2—Shepherds' Arrival at Stable.

ACT II—*The Wise Men.*

Scene 1—Wise Men Before the King

Scene 2—Wise Men at the Inn.

TWO JOURNEYS TO BETHLEHEM

ACT I

The Shepherds

Scene 1—Shepherds in Field

(*Enter Shepherds.*)

First Shepherd—"Let us lie down for a while. The sheep are all safe."

Second Shepherd—"I feel strangely wakeful tonight, but I will try to get some rest before dawn." (*Shepherds lie down. Then, frightened, they jump to their feet, shading their eyes as from a great light.*)

Voice—"Be not afraid; for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people; for there is born this day in Bethlehem a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. You may see Him there, and you will know Him by this sign: He is lying in a manger at the inn."

MANY VOICES— (*Singing.*)

"Holy night! Silent night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and child,
Holy infant, tender and mild,
Rests in heav'nly peace.
Rests in heav'nly peace."

(*The Shepherds hearing, look at each other in amazement, then join in the song, leaving the platform as they do so.*)

ALL VOICES—

"Holy night! Silent night!
All is calm, all is bright,
With the angels let us sing
Hal-le-lu-jah to our King!
Jesus Christ is here.
Jesus Christ is here."

CURTAIN

Scene 2—Shepherds' Arrival at Stable

(*Mary reclining near the manger. Enter Joseph and sits near. Enter men and women of Bethlehem. Look in manger and talk in undertones. Enter three Shepherds.*)

FIRST SHEPHERD—"Is there a baby boy here?"

MARY—"Yes, a dear little baby boy. Would you like to look at Him?"

FIRST SHEPHERD—"If you do not object." (*All walk to manger and look in.*)

SECOND SHEPHERD—"Let us tell the mother what happened in the field." (*Turning to Mary.*) "A very strange thing happened to us during the night. We were in the field tending the sheep when a bright light shone about us and an angel of the Lord spoke and said: 'Be not afraid, I bring you news of great joy which shall be to all people; for there is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ, the Lord."

THIRD SHEPHERD—"The angel also said that we could see Him and told us He would be here in the manger."

FIRST SHEPHERD—"Then we heard a song sung by many angel voices—a beautiful song it was. As they sang we joined in the singing and started at once to find the babe."

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM—"Do you really think this little baby is the promised Messiah?"

FIRST SHEPHERD—"Of course He is. If you had been with us, you would not doubt it."

SECOND SHEPHERD—"We are indeed favored, to be among the first to know of His birth and to see Him."

THIRD SHEPHERD—"How strange He wasn't born in a palace. Let us go back to our flocks and as we go we will tell the glad news."

FIRST SHEPHERD—"Let us sing the song that the angels sang." (*Exeunt as they sing.*)

"Holy night! Silent night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and child,
Holy infant, tender and mild,
Rests in heavenly peace.
Rests in heavenly peace."

CURTAIN

ACT II

The Wise Men

Scene 1—Wise Men Before the King

(*Enter King, followed by two servants, who stand at entrance. King paces back and forth, apparently lost in thought.*)

King—"And so they think that a King has been born. In that case I might lose my own kingdom before many years. That would never do! I will send for my priests and scribes and ask them about this Christ, for whom all the people are looking. The whole thing is very strange." (*To servant.*) "Bring the priests and scribes." (*Exit servant, bowing low. Enter servant with priests and scribes, who carry scrolls.*)

King—(*Seating himself on throne, while others remain standing.*) "Can you tell me where Christ, the King of Israel, is to be born?" (*All hunt for the information in scrolls.*)

ONE SCRIBE—"I have found the reference. It says that He is to be born in Bethlehem. Thus it is written by the prophet: 'And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not least among the princes of Judah; for out of thee shall come forth one who shall rule my people Israel.'"

KING—"That is all. You may go." (*Exeunt priests and scribes. To servants.*) "Search for the three Wise Men who are journeying this way toward Bethlehem. Bring them to me. Tell them that the King wishes to see them." (*Exeunt servants. King paces back and forth, seating himself on throne as servants enter with Three Wise Men.*) "They tell me that a star appeared in the East which you think indicates the birth of the Messiah."

WISE MAN—"It is true, O King."

KING—"At what time was the star first seen?"

WISE MAN—"Several nights ago, your Highness."

KING—"Very well. Go to Bethlehem and there search carefully for the child; and when you have found Him bring me word,

so that I also may come and worship Him." (*Exeunt Three Wise Men.*)

CURTAIN

Scene 2—Wise Men at the Inn

(*Mary and baby in room at the inn. Mary sitting near bed of baby. A rap is heard at the door. Enter the Three Wise Men.*)

FIRST WISE MAN—"A few nights ago we saw a new star in the heaven. We soon discovered its message—that the King of Israel had been born. The star has guided us to this place."

SECOND WISE MAN—"This is indeed the Messiah, promised of old." (*The Wise Men, kneeling in worship, offer their precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*)

MARY—"Blessed am I, indeed, among women." (*Exeunt Wise Men. Curtain.*)

THE STORY OF THE TWELVE SPIES

Numbers 13; 14:1-39

CHARACTERS:

Large group of children to represent Israelites.
Moses.
Aaron.
Joshua.
Caleb.
Ten boys to be Spies.
Larger boy to represent Giant in Promised Land.
Larger girl to represent Giant in Promised Land.

MATERIALS:

Large basket, supposed to hold grapes.
Sticks for swords.
Pointed paper caps to represent soldier caps.
Screens or curtains that the "Voice" may be heard but not seen.

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*Leaving of the spies for the Promised Land.*
ACT II—*Spying Out the Land.*
ACT III—*The Return and Report of the spies.*

THE STORY OF THE TWELVE SPIES

PROLOGUE:

The Israelites had been journeying northward toward the land of Canaan for many days, led by the pillar of cloud by day and by the pillar of fire by night. At last they came to a place just on the border between the desert and Canaan called Kadesh-barnea. Here they stopped to rest, for there were springs of water and grass for the cattle. While they waited, God told Moses to send on some men who should walk through the land, then come back and tell what they had found—what kind of a land and what kind of people were living there.

So Moses chose twelve men—a ruler from each tribe. Joshua was one of those chosen, and Caleb another. The boys and girls will show what happened.

ACT I

Leaving of the Spies for the Promised Land

(*Israelites sitting and standing about. Moses choosing his twelve spies.*)

Moses—"Come, Joshua, you shall be one of the twelve spies." (*Joshua comes forward and stands beside Moses.*) "Caleb, you are a brave man, so you, also, may go." (*Caleb comes forward and stands beside Joshua. Moses walks among the others, touching the chosen ones on the shoulder.*) "And you and you and you." (*Until ten others are chosen.*) "Now go forth to the Promised Land and learn all that you can about it. Then hurry back, for we shall be anxious until we see you again." (*Exeunt spies.*)

Moses—"Come, let us go into the tents and have dinner." (*Exeunt all.*)

ACT II

Spying Out the Land

(*Enter the twelve spies looking about curiously. They must pretend to see many things and by whispering, pointing and excited manner show each other their imaginary findings.*)

One of Spies—"My, look at that giant! I'm afraid of him. He is coming this way! Let us hide!" (*All hide as larger boy representing soldier, with cap and sword, passes by them and out of sight.*)

Second Spy—"These people who live here are so large and strong, they would soon kill us. I don't think we had better bring our army over here."

Caleb—"It is a fine country, though. Just look at all the grass our flocks might have."

Third Spy—"And look at the fields where we could raise wheat and barley."

JOSHUA—"Yes, and look at these fruit trees and the streams. I think it is worth fighting for." (*Spies walk about shading their eyes and looking in all directions.*)

FOURTH SPY—"Come, let us be returning to the camp. They will think something has happened to us, if we stay away longer." (*Suddenly a tall girl passes them, looking at them curiously and saying nothing.*)

FIFTH SPY—"See! Even the women of this land are much larger than we. They make me feel about as big as a grasshopper."

SIXTH SPY—"I wish Moses had never led us out of Egypt!"

SEVENTH SPY—"You forget the hard life there. But we had better stay away from here and live in the wilderness."

JOSHUA—"Well, I'm not afraid! God is on our side and He will help us to overcome these people. Come, let us go back and make our report." (*Exeunt all.*)

ACT III

The Return and Report of the Spies

(*The group of Israelites stand and wave as to the spies afar off, then as the spies enter, surround them, and ask many questions about their journey. Joshua and one of the other spies enter, carrying large basket.*)

Moses—"Well, here you are again! Tell us what you found in the Promised Land."

One Spy—"The people are like giants and would soon kill us all. I think we had better stay here."

Caleb—"It is a fine country, though. There is grass everywhere and fine soil for farming. It is a beautiful country."

Joshua—"And you should just see the fruit trees. All kinds of fruit. Look at these. Did you ever see such grapes or pomegranates or figs? I'm not afraid of the people. Let us go!"

Second Spy—"But you should see their

cities. The walls are up almost to the sky. We could never scale them!"

THIRD SPY—"They are fighters, too. You should have seen the soldier who came our way! We all hid from him!"

A GIRL OF GROUP—(*Putting hands over face.*) "O that we had died in Egypt."

GROUP—(*Excitedly, turning to Moses.*) "Let us not go! Let us not go!"

MOSES—(*Raising hand for silence.*) "Children of Israel, you forget the power of God. How He led you out of Egypt; how He kept you from danger in the desert; how He gave you water from the rock and bread from the sky. All of you, except Caleb and Joshua, have forgotten. You are not trusting God." (*Moses falls on knee and covers face with hands.*)

A VOICE FROM WITHOUT—(*Impressively.*) "O Israel, how long will you disobey the Lord! You have not trusted Him. You are weak and cowardly. If you had had faith to believe that God would help you, and gone forward, the giants would have fallen back and you would have possessed the land. That was the Lord's plan for you!

But now you shall not go into the land, for the Lord wants only brave people in his army —people who love Him enough to trust Him. You have turned away from God and so you must wander in the wilderness for forty years. Joshua and Caleb have believed, so some day, after you have died, they shall lead your children into the Promised Land. Turn back into the desert by the way of the Red Sea. (*Exeunt all, heads bent—going soberly and quietly.*)

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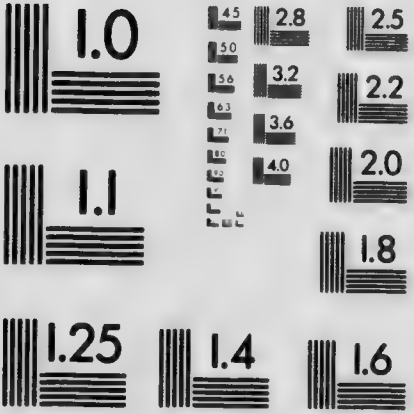

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THE STORY OF JOSEPH

(This may be given as a whole, or the acts at different times until the series is complete.)

CHARACTERS:

Jacob.
Joseph, son of Jacob.
Judah, son of Jacob.
Reuben, son of Jacob.
Benjamin, son of Jacob.
Simeon, son of Jacob.
Jacob's seven other sons.
Stranger.
Merchants.
King of Egypt.
Servants in Egypt.
Three "Wise Men" of Egypt.
Joseph's Steward.
Manasseh, Joseph's son (five years).
Ephraim, Joseph's son (three years).
Wives and children of Joseph's brothers.

MATERIALS:

Robes (kimonos will serve).
Joseph's "coat of many colors."
Staff for Jacob.
Gold chain and ring for King.
Rope to bind Simeon.

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*A Rich Man's Son Who Was Sold as a Slave.* (Gen. 37:1-36.)

Scene 1—The Dream.

Scene 2—The Bargain.

ACT II—*From Prison to Palace.* (Gen. 40:1 to 41:44.)

Scene 1—In Egyptian Prison

Scene 2—In King's Palace (Two Years Later)

ACT III—*A Dream Comes True.* (Gen. 41:46 to 42:38.)

ACT IV—*A Lost Brother Found.* (Gen. 43:1 to 45:24.)

ACT V—*From Famine to Plenty.* (Gen. 45:25 to 50:26.)

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

ACT I

A Rich Man's Son Who Was Sold as a Slave

Scene 1—The Dream

(*Jacob and ten oldest sons are sitting about on floor.*)

Joseph—(*Enters and walks up to them.*) "Brothers, listen to this dream which I had a few nights ago. It was the strangest thing! I dreamed that we were all out in the field binding sheaves when suddenly my sheaf stood up and your sheaves bowed down to my sheaf." (*All laugh scornfully.*)

Judah—"Do you suppose that the dream means that you will sometime rule over us and that we will bow down to you? Well, I guess not!"

Joseph—"Then last night I dreamed that

the sun and moon and eleven stars all came and bowed down to me."

JACOB—"Do you think, Joseph, that means that your mother and brothers and I shall bow down to you? I do not think so. Come, and go with me into the tent. Your brothers here wish to make plans for their trip." (*Turning to the others.*) "It is hard indeed to find enough grass for the sheep. But I believe if you go to Shechem you will find plenty." (*Exeunt Jacob and Joseph.*)

SIMEON—"Our father loves Joseph best of all. Of course Joseph is always kind to father and obeys him, no matter what father asks of him. But just the same, I don't like it!"

OTHERS—"Nor I! Nor I!"

SIMEON—"Come! Let us start on our journey." (*Exeunt all.*)

Scene 2—The Bargain

(*Enter the ten brothers.*)

REUBEN—"Let us rest a while in this shelter. The sheep will not wander far." (*All seated at rear.*)

JOSEPH:—"BROTHERS, LISTEN TO THIS DREAM WHICH I HAD A FEW NIGHTS AGO."

JOSEPH—(*Enters, wandering along, looking to the other side and shading eyes with hand.*) "Well, I'm pretty tired! I've come a long way to find those brothers of mine and expected to find them here at Dothan. I wonder where they are." (*He continues to look.*)

JUDAH—"Look, that dreamer is coming. Come, let us kill him and throw his body into a pit. We can tell father that some wild beast has eaten him." (*Scornfully.*) "We will see what comes of his dreams!"

REUBEN—"Oh, let us not kill him! Just throw him into the pit and leave him there to die." (*Others talk while Reuben runs forward and says to Joseph.*) "They are planning to throw you into a pit, and when they are gone I will come and lift you out and save you." (*All rush forward, pull off Joseph's coat and rush off stage with him. The ten brothers re-enter and sit on floor.*)

REUBEN—"I'm going to look after the sheep and will return soon." (*Exit. Enter Merchants.*)

ONE OF MERCHANTS—(*Upon seeing the brothers.*) "Excuse us, sirs, we saw this

shelter and, leaving our camels and wares, came here for a little rest, but since it is already occupied, we will pass on. Good-day."

JUDAH—"Wait just a moment, please." (*Whispers to brothers, who nod assent.*) "There is a lad of seventeen in the pit near-by. We would like to sell him to you. What will you pay for him?"

MERCHANT—"If he is a strong boy, we will pay you twenty pieces of silver for him."

JUDAH—"Come, brothers, let us draw him out of the pit. Come, sirs, you will see how strong he is and you may have him for that price." (*Exeunt all. Brothers re-enter and sit. Enter Reuben.*)

REUBEN—"After tending the sheep I went to the pit to see if Joseph was there and he is gone!"

JUDAH—"Yes, we sold him to some merchants, for twenty pieces of silver."

REUBEN—"What! Sold Him? Sold him?" (*Shaking his head.*) "Poor father! What will you tell him?"

JUDAH—"We have decided to kill a goat, dip Joseph's coat in the blood and take it to

father. He will think some wild beast has eaten him. Come, let us start on the homeward trip." (*Exeunt all. Reuben last, shaking his head.*)

ACT II

From Prison to Palace

Scene 1—In Egyptian Prison

(*The King's Chief Butler and Chief Baker present.*)

Chief Butler—"I wonder how long the King will keep us here. You, the Chief Baker, and I, the Chief Butler, in this prison. We have done no wrong!"

Chief Baker—"And there is that man Joseph. He doesn't say much, but I believe he is a good man."

Chief Butler—"I feel all out of sorts this morning. I had a very strange dream last night."

Chief Baker—"So did I, one that I did not like. I wish someone would tell us what they meant."

Chief Butler—"Tell me your dream, and I will tell you mine." (*Enter Joseph in old clothes.*)

CHIEF BAKER—"Joseph, we had very strange dreams last night."

JOSEPH—"Tell me what they were. Perhaps my God will help me to understand them."

CHIEF BUTLER—"In my dream was a grape vine with three branches, and many grapes. I picked them, and made wine for King Pharaoh. Then I gave it to the King to drink, just as I used to do."

JOSEPH—(*Studying a moment.*) "Your dream means that in three days the King will give you back your place and that you will serve him as before. Please speak to him about me when you see him, so that he will take me out of this prison. I have done nothing wrong."

CHIEF BAKER—"Now listen to my dream. It seemed as if there were three baskets on my head, full of food for the King. And birds came and ate the food out of the baskets."

JOSEPH—(*Shaking his head sorrowfully.*) "I am afraid it means that in three days the King will have you put to death. But perhaps I am wrong. Let us hope so."

Scene 2—In King's Palace
Time—Two Years Later

(*King on throne and two soldiers standing near. Chief Butler in foreground. He offers wine to the King. Enter three "Wise Men" and bow before the King.*)

ONE OF "WISE MEN"—"We have been thinking about your dream, O King, and none of us can tell its meaning. We are very sorry."

KING—"Begone then, since you have failed!" (*Exeunt "Wise Men."*) (*Aside.*) "These dreams trouble me. I wish I could find someone who could tell me their meaning."

CHIEF BUTLER—"I remember one who might do it, O King! A young man in the prison once told me what a dream meant, and it came true just as he said. His name was Joseph."

KING—(*To soldiers.*) "Bring this man Joseph to me." (*Butler serves King with grape juice. King paces the floor anxiously watching the door. Enter soldiers with Joseph.*)

KING—"I have dreamed a dream and no one can tell me what it means. My butler says that you once told him the meaning of a dream. Will you try to interpret mine?"

JOSEPH—"The power is not in me, but God will give Pharaoh a good answer. What is the dream?"

KING—"I really had two dreams. In the first I was standing by a river and seven fat cows came up from the river to feed in the grass. While they were feeding, seven other cows followed them—thin and poor and lean—and they ate up the seven fat cows. But after they had eaten the fat cows they were as lean as before. Then I awoke. And I dreamed again and saw seven heads of grain large and strong. And seven thin heads came up and swallowed the seven good heads."

JOSEPH—"The two dreams have the same meaning. The seven good cows and good heads of wheat are seven years—years of plenty in the land. The seven lean cows and withered heads of grain mean seven years of famine to follow. The seven years of plenty will be forgotten, for the people will

have nothing to eat. Let the King find some wise man to rule over the land and teach the people to save plenty of food that no one suffer when the famine comes."

KING—"I appoint you, Joseph, to rule over the land. You shall be next to me in power." (*Puts his ring on Joseph's finger and his gold chain around Joseph's neck.*)

JOSEPH—"Thank you, O King. Now I shall go and make my plans." (*Curtain—or exeunt King, guarded by soldiers, then servants.*)

ACT III

A Dream Comes True

Scene—Egypt. *Time—Nine years later.*

(*Joseph sits upon throne. Servants fan him. Joseph, looking out entrance, starts up excitedly at sight of ten brothers, then composes himself.*)

Joseph—"And so they are coming to buy grain of me. I wonder if they will know me. I wonder if they are as selfish and cruel and wicked as they used to be. I will put them to the test." (*Enter brothers and bow down to Joseph.*)

Joseph—(*Over their heads.*) "Ah, my dream comes true!"

Judah—"Did you speak, sir?"

Joseph—"Not to you. Who are you, and from where do you come?"

Simeon—"We have come from the land of Canaan to buy food."

JOSEPH—"No! You have probably come as spies to see how helpless the land is, that you may make war upon us."

REUBEN—"No, we are not spies. We are ten brothers who live in Canaan. We have no food."

JOSEPH—"Who is your father? Have you other brothers? Tell me all about yourselves."

JUDAH—"Our father is an old man in Canaan. We have one brother at home and one brother who was lost."

JOSEPH—"I will shut one of you in prison. The rest of you may go home and take food for your people. Come back and bring your youngest brother with you, that I may know that you have spoken the truth." (*Pointing to Simeon, and addressing servant.*) "Bind this one." (*Servant wraps rope round and round and leads Simeon off stage.*)

JOSEPH—"And now the rest of you may wait outside the palace until the sacks of grain are brought to you." (*Points the way out. Exeunt brothers.*)

JOSEPH—(*To soldier.*) "See that each man is given a sack of grain and put every

man's money back into the sack before it is tied up." (*To himself as he strolls out.*) "And so my dream did come true. They came and bowed to me, not knowing who I was." (*Exit.*)

ACT IV

A Lost Brother Found

Scene—Joseph's House

(*R. Enter ten brothers, looking frightened and sorrowful, followed by several servants.*)

Benjamin—"My! This ruler has a beautiful home, hasn't he?"

Judah—"But I wish we had never seen it! Now because we were invited here and dined with the ruler, somehow or other his silver cup got into your sack and we shall be sold as slaves."

Reuben—"It is certainly very strange about that, and the money also. We have stolen nothing, but we will find it hard to make him believe it. I wish we had never come to Egypt on this second trip. To have starved would have been better!"

Benjamin—"But he made you leave

Simeon here, and he forced you to bring me along. It is all very strange." (*Enter Joseph.*)

JOSEPH—"What wicked thing is this that you have done? Did you not know that I would surely find out your deeds?"

JUDAH—"Oh, my Lord, what can we say? God has punished us for our sins, and now we must all be slaves!"

JOSEPH—"No, only one is guilty, the one who took my cup. I will hold him as a slave. The rest of you may go home."

JUDAH—(*Coming forth and falling at Joseph's feet.*) "Do not say that, my Lord. Our father loves him best of all, now that our other brother is lost. I promised to bear the blame if he were not brought home in safety. If he does not go back it will kill our old father. Let him go and I will stay, a slave in his place."

JOSEPH—(*To servants.*) "You may pass out." (*To brothers.*) "Come near to me, I wish to say something very important. Listen—I AM JOSEPH!" (*Frightened and surprised, the brothers draw away from him.*) "Yes, I am Joseph, your brother!

You sold me into Egypt, but it is all right. God needed me here at this time to save your lives."

BROTHERS—"Forgive us! Forgive us!"

JOSEPH—"Listen—there have been two years of famine. There will be five more. Now go home and bring back to me my father and all of his family. That is the only way to save the lives of all. Take wagons to bring the women and children. Now, good-bye until I see you again."

BROTHERS—"Good-bye. We will return as soon as we can." (*Exeunt brothers, then Joseph.*)

ACT V

From Famine to Plenty

(*Enter Joseph and his old father, leaning upon his staff. Joseph tenderly places him in a chair. Enter Joseph's eleven brothers, their wives and families, and sit on the floor on either side of Jacob.*)

Joseph—"My, it is good to see y all! And now that you have come to Egypt you shall always have plenty of food."

Jacob—"Now I can die in peace, for I know that you, Joseph, are alive and well."

Joseph—"Do not talk of dying, father. You may yet live for a long time. And now would you not like to see my two sons?"

Jacob and Brothers—"Yes, bring them in!" (*Exit Joseph and re-enters with sons, three and five years of age.*)

Joseph—"This is Manasseh and this

Ephraim." (*Bringing older and then younger forward.*)

JACOB—"I expected never to see you again, Joseph, and how thankful I am that I see both you and my little grandchildren!" (*Puts arms about them.*)

JOSEPH—"All the children may go out into the fields for a while. Come, Manasseh and Ephraim, run along and get acquainted with your cousins. It is high time you knew each other." (*Exeunt children.*) "And now if you women would like to do so, you may wander about my house and gardens. They are very beautiful."

ONE OF WOMEN—"Thank you, very much." (*Exeunt women.*)

JOSEPH—"Now let me tell you something. The King knows that you are here and has asked to see you. Shall we all go to him immediately?"

JACOB—"Yes, let us go to him. I wish to thank him for his goodness to my boy." (*As they start off stage.*) "Joseph, you have been a true son, a forgiving brother and a faithful servant—and God has blessed you."

JOSEPH—"It is true that God has cared

for me, and I am sure that even those things which are hardest to bear, work together for good to them that love Him." (*Exeunt all.*)

NAAMAN AND GEHAZI

II Kings 5:9-27

CHARACTERS:

Naaman, General in Syrian Army.
Naaman's Servants (Four).
Elisha, Prophet in Israel.
Gehazi, Servant of Elisha.

MATERIALS:

Screen.
Bags, supposed to hold Naaman's gold and raiment.
Scroll for Elisha.
Talcum to make leper's skin "white as snow." (This will give a little idea of the disease without dwelling upon the more horrible details.)
Flowing robes, if desired.

SYNOPSIS:

ACT I—*Elisha's Home.*
Scene 1—Naaman Comes to Elisha for Cure.
Scene 2—Return of Naaman, After the Cure.
ACT II—*Road to Damascus.*
ACT III—*Elisha's Home.*

NAAMAN AND GEHAZI

ACT I

Elisha's Home

Scene 1—Naaman Comes to Elisha for Help

(*Screen midway on platform—the space to the right representing the approach to Elisha's house, the space to the left representing the interior. Enter Elisha and Gehazi from right and pass into house. Gehazi hears knocking and goes to door* [*a screen*]. *Enter servant of Naaman.*)

Elisha—"Good morning. What can I do for you?"

Servant—"My master, Naaman, a General in the Syrian army, is at your door. He is a great man in rank, and a brave man in battle. But he is a Leper! He has heard of you and has come that you might cure him of his leprosy."

ELISHA—"Tell him to go and wash in the river Jordan seven times and he shall be cured." (*Servant bows and goes out, but returns immediately.*)

SERVANT—"My master is very angry, sir, that you do not treat him with more respect. He supposed that you would come out to meet him, wave your hand over him, call on the name of the Lord, your God, and he would be cured. He says that there are two rivers in Damascus better than all the rivers in Israel."

ELISHA—"But I said for him to wash in the river Jordan." (*Servant bows and leaves.*)

Scene 2—Return of Naaman after the Cure

(*Elisha reading. Servant sitting on floor. Knock is heard and servant goes to door.*)

NAAMAN—(*Enters followed by several servants, each carrying a bag.*) "See, I am no longer a leper. I shall never be able to thank you enough! I am sure now that there is no God except yours. Let me make you presents of gold and clothes."

ELISHA—"No, no! I will accept nothing."

NAAMAN—"But I am so glad to be well again! It will make me happy to repay you in this way."

ELISHA—"Please do not urge, for I cannot take your gifts."

NAAMAN—"From this time I will worship no other God than the God of Israel. May I take enough soil to Syria to build an altar to Him?"

ELISHA—"Yes, go in peace." (*During this conversation Gehazi tries to peep into two of the bags and looks surprised when his master refuses pay. Exeunt Naaman and servants, then Elisha.*)

GEHAZI—(*Shaking his head.*) "My master has let this Syrian go without taking anything from him, but I will run after him and ask him for a present." (*Exit Gehazi.*)

ACT II

Road to Damascus

(*Gehazi and Naaman enter from different sides and meet.*)

Naaman—"I saw you following and, leaving my chariot, I have come back to meet you. Is all well?"

Gehazi—"All is well. But just now two young men have come to the house and my master has sent me to ask if you will give them a talent of silver and two suits of clothes."

Naaman—(*Turning about and calling two of his servants, who appear, each carrying a bag.*) "In each of these bags is a suit of clothing. Allow me to put into each a talent of silver" (*Putting in money.*) "and my servants will carry them back for you."

Gehazi—"Thank you, my Lord. Good-bye." (*Naaman passes off one side of platform; Gehazi and servants, bearing bags, exeunt right.*)

ACT III

Elisha's Home

(*Elisha reading scroll. Enter Gehazi.*)

Elisha—"Where have you been, Gehazi?"

Gehazi—"Nowhere."

Elisha—"Oh, Gehazi, I know where you have been and what you did. You ran after Naaman for a gift. He saw you following and came back to meet you. You told him a lie in order to get the gifts. And now you have hidden them and have lied to me also. You must be punished. Because you have done this the leprosy of Naaman shall come upon you!" (*Gehazi turns back to audience, covers face with his hands, moaning, and as he does so rubs talcum over his face. Exit Gehazi, moaning. Exit Elisha.*)

THE STORY OF THE BABY MOSES

Exodus 2:1-10

CHARACTERS:

The Princess.
Maids of the Princess.
The Mother of Moses.
Miriam.

MATERIALS:

Doll (to represent baby).
Basket for baby.
Parasol.
Kimonos (if desired, to represent dress of the times).

THE STORY OF THE BABY MOSES

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there lived a beautiful Princess and her father in a wonderful castle. The father was King of a country called Egypt. People called Israelites lived in his country. They were good people and worshiped God, but partly for that very reason the King was cruel to them. He made them his slaves. They worked hard, were poor and suffered much.

But one day he did the worst thing of all. He sent a message to the Israelites throughout the country. The Israelites were also called Hebrews, and this is how the message read: "Every little Hebrew boy that is born after today must be thrown into the river." Oh how sorrowful the Hebrew people felt when they heard the command!

In one of these homes lived a little girl about twelve years of age whose name was Miriam. One morning when she opened her

eyes and called to her mother she found that a wonderful thing had happened. A baby brother had come. At first she was very happy, for she loved babies, but presently she felt sorry indeed, for she remembered what the King had ordered. Her mother cried and her father looked so sad. They knew that if the baby should be discovered, the cruel King would have him killed.

For some days they hid the baby and none of the neighbors, friends or passers-by knew that there was a baby in the house. But one day the mother said, "We cannot hide the baby any longer. He is getting so strong that his cry can be heard a long way. People will hear it and someone will tell the King. Whatever shall we do?" Then they thought of a plan and asked God to help them save the baby's life. (*Enter child representing the mother, with basket.*) The mother took a basket and lined it with something that would keep the water out of it. (*Child with basket pretends to line the inside.*) When she had it all ready, Miriam came with little brother. (*Child representing Miriam comes with doll.*) Mother laid

him in the basket (*Mother does this.*) and hid it among the bulrushes on the river bank. (*Act out.*) They knew that the beautiful Princess often came down to the river for a bath, and hoped that when she saw the baby and how beautiful he was she would not let the King's soldiers kill him. "Miriam," said the mother, "stay close by and see what happens to him. I will come back presently. The Princess must not see me here, for she might know that I am his mother." (*Miriam sits down and the mother goes out.*)

Miriam sat for a long time and watched the basket bobbing up and down among the bulrushes. At last she heard some people near by (*Miriam listens.*) and looking up saw that the Princess and her maids were really coming, just as her mother had hoped they would. (*Enter Princess with several maids, one holding a parasol over her, one holding the train of her dress, a third carrying a Turkish towel.*) How anxious Miriam was as they came near to the place where the baby was hidden. She was very much frightened lest the Princess should be angry. What if the Princess should tell one of the maids

to take him out of the little boat and throw him into the river. Perhaps she would report the discovery to the King, who would not only have the baby killed, but send the soldiers to take her mother to prison for not obeying his command. They would be sure somehow to find out who was the baby's mother.

While Miriam was thinking of these things the Princess came up close to the bank and saw the basket among the bushes. (*The Princess looks at it and motions for one of the maids to bring it to her.*) One of the maids having brought it to her (*Acted out.*), they opened it and there was the beautiful baby, who began to cry to be taken up. The Princess loved him at once and lifted him out of the basket. (*Acted out.*) She said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

Miriam saw that she loved the baby, and just as she was wondering what to do a bright idea came to her. Running up to the Princess and looking at the baby (*Acted out.*), she said, "Shall I go and find some woman of the Hebrews to be a nurse to the child for you and take care of it?" "Yes," said the

"MIRIAM RAN QUICKLY AND BROUGHT THE BABY'S OWN MOTHER TO THE PRINCESS."

Princess (*Motions for Miriam to go.*), "go and find a nurse for me." (*Miriam goes out while the Princess walks up and down, swinging the baby to and fro in her arms. If desired, a lullaby might be sung here—"Baby's Boat's a Silver Moon," or some other of the many good ones.*) Miriam ran quickly and brought the baby's own mother to the Princess. (*Enter Miriam and mother.*) "Here is a baby that I found just now among the bulrushes," said the Princess. "He is so beautiful that we must not let him be killed. Take him to your home and nurse him for me, and I will pay you wages." (*Princess hands baby to mother.*) "We will call him 'Moses,' and when he is old enough I will have him come to live with me in the palace as if he were my own son." Then the Princess said good-bye to the baby and his new nurse, who was really his mother, and went back to the palace, little knowing what a good deed she had done. (*Princess and maids pass out in one direction, mother with baby and Miriam in another.*)

Oh, how thankful was the mother that her baby's life had been spared! And how happy

and proud was Miriam to think that she had helped to bring little brother into their own home again, where he could cry or laugh just as loud as he wished, and no one could do him harm!

THE STORY OF LITTLE SAMUEL

I Samuel 1-3

CHARACTERS:

Eli.
Hannah.
Elkanah.
Samuel.

MATERIALS:

Long robe (to make child who takes part of Hannah look older).
Coat for Samuel.
Glass of water.
Couch or cushions and mat (for Samuel and Eli).

THE STORY OF LITTLE SAMUEL

I am going to tell you a story about four people—one for each finger on your left hand. Hold it up and let us count. (*Have each child count left hand fingers as you name characters.*) First, a minister whose name was Eli; then a little boy whose name was Samuel; his mother, Hannah; and his father, Elkanah.

One day Eli, the minister, was in his church (*Enter child representing Eli, turban on head made from handkerchief and kimono belted in to represent robe of priest, if it is desired.*) when he heard some voices at the door. Looking up (*Acted out.*), he saw a man and woman who had come there to worship. Their names were Hannah and Elkanah. As he watched them the woman knelt and he saw her lips move. (*Acted out.*) He thought she acted strangely, so presently he walked up to her (*Acted out.*) and said,

"Do not drink any more wine, for it makes you drunk." Hannah told him that she was not drunk—that she was only talking to God and asking Him for a little son, for she was very lonely. "I have promised the Lord," she said to Eli, "that if He will give me a son, he shall be given to do the Lord's work so long as he lives." Eli said, "Go in peace and may the Lord give you a little son as you have asked." (*Exeunt Hannah and Elkanah.*)

After some time Hannah and Elkanah came again to the church. This time they had with them a dear little boy whose name was Samuel. (*Enter Hannah and Elkanah with little Samuel.*) It was the little boy for whom Hannah had prayed and they had named him Samuel, for the name means "asked of God." Hannah was sad no more. She was very happy and so was Samuel's father.

Hannah came to Eli and gave him little Samuel's hand. (*Acted out.*) She said, "The Lord heard my prayer and sent me this little son. Is he not a dear boy? Now he shall be given to the Lord to do His work

as long as he lives. So let him stay here with you and grow up in God's house."

He was a very little boy to begin doing church work, wasn't he?

He was very brave when his father and mother kissed him good-bye (*Acted out.*) and went back home alone. (*Exeunt parents.*) He stayed on with Eli and obeyed him just as if he were Eli's own son. He helped Eli, too! While he was such a little boy he did just little things. But as he grew older he did many things to help—he lit the lamps and opened the doors (*Pretend.*) and waited on Eli (*Brings a drink of water to Eli.*), who was getting old and was nearly blind. (*Takes Eli by hand and leads him across to seat, Eli keeping eyes closed.*)

Eli was his teacher, too, and Samuel learned all of his lessons well.

Every year Samuel's mother brought him a new coat which she had made. (*Enter Hannah with coat on her arm, kneels before Samuel and shows him the coat.*) "What a fine boy you are growing to be!" she would always say. "Mother is very proud of you." (*Exit Hannah.*)

One night Samuel had lain down to sleep (*Acted out.*) when he heard someone calling to him. He thought Eli had called him. He ran to Eli (*Acted out.*) and answered, "Here am I, for you called me." But Eli had not called him. He said to Samuel, "I did not call you, lie down again." So Samuel went and lay down. (*Act out.*)

Soon Samuel heard the voice a second time. It said, "Samuel! Samuel!" He ran to Eli a second time (*Acted out.*) and said, "Here am I, for you called me." But Eli had not called him. He said to Samuel, "I did not call you, lie down again." And Samuel went and lay down. (*Acted out.*)

A third time Samuel heard someone calling. He thought all this very strange, but he ran to Eli. (*Acted out.*) "Here am I, for you surely called me," he said. Eli now knew that the Lord had spoken to Samuel. He himself had not done so and there was no one else in the house with them. But he knew, as do we, that God is always present, so he said, "Samuel, go lie down once more, and if you again hear the voice say, 'Speak, Lord, for thy servant hears.'" So Samuel

lay down once more and waited for the voice. (*Acted out.*) Soon God called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" This time Samuel knew that God was speaking and answered, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant hears." And God talked with him. He told Samuel how wicked were the sons of Eli. He said he must punish them for their wickedness. It would be a very severe punishment, he said, for not only had they sinned, but had made many others to sin also.

In the morning when Samuel arose he went about his work as usual (*Acted out.*), but he stayed far away from Eli, for he dreaded to tell Eli of the message. But bye and bye Eli called to him (*Goes to Eli.*) and said, "Samuel, my boy, tell me what the Lord said to you last night." So Samuel told Eli all that the Lord had said, though it was a sad message indeed. Eli shook his head sorrowfully, but laid his hand on the boy's shoulder (*Acted out.*) and said, "It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him." (*Exit Samuel, leading Eli out.*)

Samuel listened for God's voice after this and God told Samuel many things, and in

different ways. Samuel obeyed God and served Him, and when he was grown to be a man he was called one of God's prophets and taught the people about God and how to serve Him. There is a still, small voice within which tells us what is right and what is wrong. Let us always listen to and obey it, for it is God's voice speaking to us.

(*Enter all children and sing.*)

"Within the temple veil,
The light was burning dim;
The sacrifice was ended,
Hushed was the evening hymn.
Little Samuel, sleeping,
Was wakened by a cry;
He heard a voice, and answered,
'Lord, Lord, here am I.'

"As little Samuel listened,
The voice he did obey;
He learned God's will and served Him,
In meekness, every day.

Then listen, little children,
And try God's voice to hear;
As in our hearts He's speaking
His message sweet and clear."